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TO: Derrick Woods

FROM: Donald J. Pochopien

DATE: March 28, 2003

FACSIMILE NUMBER: 703-308-6916

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#201e

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. RTI 112R /1915-13980US02

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

Bianchi, John R., *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/782,594

Filed: February 12, 2001

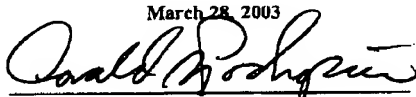
For: "Assembled Implant"

Group Art Unit: 1615

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, to the attention of Derrick Woods at facsimile telephone number 1-703-308-6916 on this date:

March 28, 2003



Donald J. Pochopier
Registration No. 32,167
Attorney for Applicants

FOURTH PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

At the top of page 1 of the specification, please delete the paragraph between lines 6 and 11, which recites the claim of priority, and insert in its place the following paragraph:

--This application is a continuation-in-part of each of the following: U.S. Application No. 09/191,232 filed on November 13, 1998, now U.S. Pat. 6,482,584; U.S. Application No. 09/378,527, filed on August 20, 1999, pending; U.S. Application number 09/701,933, filed August 25, 1998, pending, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/920,630, filed August 27, 1997, abandoned; U.S. Application No. 09/390,174, filed on September 7, 1999, pending; and of U.S. Application No. 29/123,227, filed on May 12, 2000, now U.S. Design

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Pat. D461,248; the priority of all of which is claimed herein under 35 U.S.C. § 120. This application is also related to provisional application serial number 60/181,622, filed February 10, 2000 to which the priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e). --

A marked copy of the paragraph, showing all of the changes to the originally filed paragraph is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

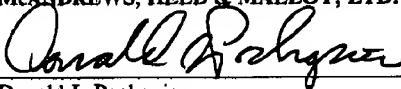
The amendment to the claim of priority does not add new matter.

It is believed that no fees are due as a result of filing this paper. However, if any fees are due as a result of filing this request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be due to Deposit Account No. 13-0017 in the name of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.

Respectfully submitted,

McANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.

By:



Donald J. Pochopien
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Date: March 28, 2003

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